

Testimony Before The
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
H.B. No. 6830 AAC The Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30, 2013
March 4, 2011

Ms. K.M. is a single mother of three. She was referred to the SHF program in October of 2009 and assigned for case management services in March 2010. The client was working 32 hrs a week and working third shift.

The client was in an abusive relationship for 16 years. She finally made the decision to stop the abuse that she and her daughters were receiving. A restraining order was put in place and the client's husband was arrested and the client finally separated from him. After separating, the client found herself with not enough income to pay her rent, bills and expenses.

At the time of the intake, client was facing eviction due to outstanding rent payments. The client received the notice of eviction and she was desperate to find someplace to go. The client's oldest daughter was receiving individual therapy at The Village for Families and Children in Hartford and later she was placed in a group home in Wolcott, CT. The client's two youngest daughters were having behavioral problems and receiving low grades at their school.

After the client was enrolled in the Supportive Housing for Families program, the SHF case manager was able to mediate her housing situation. The landlord agreed not to evict the client and let her stay in the apartment if client paid her portion of the rent on time. In addition, an agreement between the landlord and client was reached where the landlord would include the heat and hot water which helped the client even more. The client's situation was so difficult that she did not have adequate furniture for her and her family. Through the SHF program, she received a set of twin beds for her two youngest daughters and a kitchen table set for her family. Thanks to these interventions, the client become more stable and was able to focus on herself and on helping her three daughters address their behavioral issues.

The client has maintained her job during her enrollment with SHF. The client is working 36 hours per week and earning \$14 per hour. The client is able to pay her portion of the rent on time and in full.

The client separated from her husband and the restraining order is still in effect. There has not been any other hotline report to DCF or any other arrest at the house.

SHF case manager has been following up with the process of reunification and DCF has been working with the client and her oldest daughter to receive family therapy and counseling. The client's oldest daughter is staying at the group home. She is attending West Hartford Public Schools and she has been improving her grades. The client's daughter is visiting the client's house during the weekends and improving her behavior. The client's two youngest daughters are receiving reading support and they are doing better at school.

With the help of the SHF case manager, the client was able to complete and submit the necessary documentation in order to apply and receive a Family Unification Program Section 8 voucher through Imagineers. The client will now have a permanent subsidy allowing her family to be stable and not fear losing her housing again.

The case manager and the client developed a detailed service plan identifying goals that would influence the family in a positive way. Obtaining and maintaining permanent housing was only one of those goals. Another goal was developing and managing a monthly budget. Her housing goal has been met, she continues to follow her budgeting goal and is now doing what she needs to do to go back to school and attain her CNA certificate. Her service plan has been a good tool for our client to keep her present and future goals for her family clear and delineated.

Respectfully,

K.M. (58224)